

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T TEHRAN 9935

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, UR

SUBJECT: MOSCOW VISIT OF SHAH

REF: A. TEHRAN 9861 (NOTAL)

B. MOSCOW 17621

1. MINISTER OF COURT ALAM RECEIVED ME EVENING NOVEMBER 23 TO SAY THAT HE HAD BEEN ORDERED BY SHAH TO FILL ME IN ON ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF THE VISIT TO MOSCOW. FROM ALAM'S RECITAL IT BECOMES APPARENT THAT THE SOVIETS ATTEMPTED TO GET AT THE IRAQ PROBLEM BY ATTACKING THE SHAH ON HIS ARMS BUILDUP.

2. AT THE FIRST MEETING ON THE FIRST DAY WITH PODGORNYY, KOSYGIN, AND BREZHNEV SITTING OPPOSITE HIM, THE SHAH WAS SHARPLY ATTACKED ON HIS ARMS POLICY WITH BREZHNEV DOING THE SPEAKING. AFTER ASKING AGAINST WHOM THE ARMS BUILDUP IS DIRECTED AND WHY IRAN IS INSTRUMENTAL IN REVIVING CENTO, BREZHNEV, STRIKING THE TABLE WITH HIS INDEX FINGER FOR EMPHASIS, ASSERTED THAT THE SHAH'S ACTIONS (READ IRAQ) WILL INEVITABLY LEAD STEP BY STEP TO A WORLDWIDE CONFLICT. BREZHNEV RATTLED THE CHAINS ABOUT THE PERSIAN GULF, THEN MOVED ON TO THE INDIAN OCEAN WHERE HE CLAIMED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS INFILTRATING THE AREA AND THAT DIEGO GARCIA WILL BE AN IMPORTANT BASE DIRECTED AGAINST THE SEA TRAFFIC OF THE WORLD. THIS WILL SIMPLY ADD TO ALREADY

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EXISTING DIFFICULTIES, HE CONTENDED.

3. ACCORDING TO ALAM'S ACCOUNT, THE SHAH LISTENED TO BREZHNEV'S LECTURE TO THE END. HE THEN RESPONDED, "NOBODY CAN TELL ME WHETHER OR NOT I SHOULD REINFORCE MYSELF. THIS IS AN INTERNAL IRANIAN AFFAIR, AND WE KNOW WHAT WE ARE DOING. IF ANYONE CHOOSES TO THREATEN US, WE WILL KNOW WHAT TO DO IN TERMS OF INVOKING TREATIES AUTHORIZED BY APPROPRIATE ARTICLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER." THE SHAH THEN WENT ON TO POINT OUT THAT RECENT EXPERIENCE IN THE WORLD HAS SHOWN THAT IN CASE OF ATTACK NO ONE CAN HELP IRAN EXCEPT ITSELF. HE THEN RE-EMPHASIZED THAT IRAN MUST BE STRONG AND THAT NO ONE HAS ANY RIGHT TO TELL THE GOI WHAT IT MAY OR MAY NOT DO IN ITS ARMS BUILDUP. THE SHAH THEN NOTED THAT EXAMINATION OF HOSTILITIES BETWEEN THE ISRAELIS AND THE ARABS AND BETWEEN THE TURKS AND THE GREEKS RECENTLY SHOW THAT NO FRIENDS, NOT EVEN THE UNITED NATIONS, CAN HELP TO ANY DEGREE AT ALL. THE SHAH IS SAID TO HAVE ENDED HIS DEFENSE BY THE STATEMENT, "THIS IS MY POLICY AND MY DECISION. NO ONE CAN INTERFERE WITH ME."

4. WHEN THE SHAH HAD FINISHED SPEAKING, THE SOVIET TROIKA IS SAID TO HAVE PROMPTLY CHANGED ITS ATTITUDE AS IF NOTHING UNPLEASANT HAD BEEN SAID AT ALL. FROM THEN ON THEY STRESSED COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD IN ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL, AND FINANCIAL MATTERS. THEY EVEN PROPOSED SOME SORT OF JOINT VENTURES. APPARENTLY THERE WAS MUCH LAUGHING ON THEIR PART SUGGESTIVE OF CAMARADERIE.

5. AT THE END OF THE VISIT THERE WAS TALK ABOUT IRAQ AND THE FIGHTING GOING ON THERE. WITHOUT LEANING ON THE SHAH, THE TROIKA SUGGESTED THAT RENEWED EFFORTS BE MADE TO SETTLE THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ THROUGH NEGOTIATION. THIS THE SHAH AGREED TO CONTINUE SINCE IRAN-IRAQ TALKS HAVE BEEN GOING ON AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL FOR SOME TIME.
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